



News Release

Arizona Department of Public Safety

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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MAN SUSPECTED OF ABDUCTING COUPLE FOUND DEAD NEAR QUARTZSITE

DPS investigators have identified the body of Gregory Allen Cole, also known as "Ground Hog." The body was found today off Highway 95 near mile post 114 in a dry wash.

Cole apparently died from a self-inflicted gun shot wound. Investigators located no vehicles in the area.

This is related to the investigation of the shooting of a Quartzsite Police Officer that occurred in Quartzsite, Arizona in the early morning hours of May 17, 2007.

Arizona Department of Public Safety (DPS) Detectives have identified Gregory Allen Cole as a suspect who was wanted for attempted murder of a police officer in connection with the shooting and who was a suspect in the disappearance of an Oregon couple.

The whereabouts of Kenneth W. Miller and Betty Lou Japel are still unknown. However, investigators did locate the couple's black and silver Dodge Ram pickup truck in Montana. It is unknown how long the Dodge had been in Montana and how it got there.

"The officers of the Quartzsite Police Department as well as many others have endured sixteen to twenty hour days and nights in the extensive and exhaustive search for Gregory Allen Cole. I am relieved that this incident has come to a safe conclusion for the community and all of our fellow officers. I am pleased to say that Officer James Kemp is doing well, and my prayers are with him and his family for a full and speedy recovery. I would personally like to thank all the supporting agencies involved for their assistance and dedication to law enforcement." Jeff Gilbert Chief of Police Quartzsite Police Department.

In addition to the Quartzsite Police Department and the Arizona Department of Public Safety, the U.S. Marshals Office, La Paz County Sheriff's Office, and the Parker Police Department have provided extensive support in the search for the suspect and during this investigation.

"It is our policy to assist any police agency in tracking a fugitive that is involved in the death or serious injury of one of their officers. This is a perfect example of a cooperative effort that helped provide closure in the search for a violent criminal. I am thankful no other officers were hurt in the search for Gregory Cole," said U.S. Marshal David Gonzales.